

Early Successional Quail Habitat CP38E (CP-4D)

Iowa Job Sheet

CRP: Wildlife Plan

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Des Moines, Iowa

Iowa Conservation Practice 645
February 2017

Description

Early Successional Quail Habitat is a CRP SAFE initiative designed to provide top quality quail habitat in Iowa.

Conservation planners should refer to 2-CRP, Iowa Amendments, Exhibit 11 for specifics.

This document will serve as the wildlife plan.

Practice Requirements

- » Offers must be greater than 5 acres.
- » Twenty-five percent of each offer must be managed as early successional habitat and the remainder will be managed as nesting cover with the **option** to include winter covey headquarters and/or food plots (CP12).
- » Winter covey headquarters and food plots are optional, but planners should encourage participants to include this cover type in their offer.
- » Participants have the opportunity to enroll multiple locations in a field or on a tract. Locations that are separated by more than 1320' (1/4 mile) must contain each habitat element (nesting and early successional habitat). When locations are close to each other (less than 1320') then required acres of habitat elements may be located in multiple fields to meet the requirements.
- » In cases of re-enrolled CRP and enrolled hayland, eradicate perennial plant communities in Year 1, prior to planting early successional and nesting habitat areas.
- » Quail habitat will be planned as CRP practice CP38E (CP4D), permanent wildlife habitat.
- » Managed harvesting for hay and biomass, and routine grazing are not eligible.



Photo courtesy of Bryan Eastham

Early Successional Habitat Area (ESHA)

- » Seed annuals every third year. Seeded annuals will remain left standing, unharvested and undisturbed for three years. Annuals will be seeded in years 1, 4 and 7 of a 10 year contract. Refer to Table A for approved annual plants, pure stand seeding rates and seeding dates. Seed as pure stand or mix.
- » Seeding mixtures of annuals are preferred over monoculture. The pure stand rates are decreased to a percentage of the desired stand when used to calculate a mixture of two or more species.
- » Prepare a seedbed with tillage. Tilled area should provide no more than 50 percent bare ground leaving at least 50 percent ground cover of residue.
- » Seed may be broadcast when followed by cultipacking.
- » The focus of early successional habitat is for young broods which need overhead cover and abundant bare ground to forage efficiently. Create bare ground conditions prior to seeding annuals with tillage or fire.

- » Firebreaks are allowed around the ESHA. Consider firebreaks if burning is planned to create bare ground/ seedbed preparation in the ESHA or if the ESHA needs to be protected from fire that is planned in the adjacent nesting cover. Apply Practice Standard 394, Firebreak.
- » Plan locations and plot orientation to minimize soil loss. Early successional habitat area may be planned as a block or in strips (minimum 30') along a contour.
- » Annual soil loss must be at or below the tolerable (T) limit.
- » Seedbed preparation and seeding must take place outside of the primary nesting period, May 15 – August 1, to comply with Mid Contract Management policy.
- » Summer seeding dates are allowed only in Year 1.
- » Monitor and control undesirable plants according



Early successional habitat / Photo courtesy of Iowa DNR

to Conservation Practice Standard 315, Herbaceous Weed Control.

- » Apply Conservation Practice Standard 647, Early Successional Habitat Development/Management.

Table A. Approved Annual Species for Early Successional Area

| Species | Amount Seeded/Acre | When to Seed |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Oats | 60 lbs./acre | Spring |
| Winter or Spring Wheat | 55 lbs./acre | Late Summer or Spring |
| Barley Winter or Spring | 60 lbs./acre | Late Summer or Spring |
| Cereal Rye | 55 lbs./acre | Late Summer |
| Pearl Millet | 15 lbs./acre | Spring or Summer |
| Buckwheat | 40 lbs./acre | Spring or Summer |
| Commercial Sunflower | 5 lbs./acre | Spring or Summer |
| Korean Lespedeza | 20 lbs./acre | Spring |
| Grain Sorghum | 8 lbs./acre | Spring or Summer |
| Cowpea | 60 lbs./acre | Spring |
| Partridge Pea | 35 lbs./acre | Dormant or Spring |
| Rattlebox | 21 lbs./acre | Dormant or Spring |

Seeding Dates:

Spring = April 15 - May 14

Summer = May 15 - July 1 (Only Allowed in Year 1)

Late Summer = August 2 - October 1

Dormant = November 15 - Freeze

Table B. Short Native Grass

| Species |
|--|
| Fox sedge (<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>) |
| Broomsedge bluestem (<i>Andropogon virginicus</i> L.) |
| Canada wildrye (<i>Elymus canadensis</i>) |
| Virginia wildrye (<i>Elymus virginicus</i>) |
| Prairie junegrass (<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>) |
| Little bluestem (<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>) |
| Sideoats gramma (<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>) |
| Rough dropseed (<i>Sporobolus clandestinus</i>) |
| Composite dropseed (<i>Sporobolus compositus</i>) |
| Prairie dropseed (<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>) |
| Porcupinegrass (<i>Hesperostipa spartea</i>) |

Nesting Cover

- » Seed to short native grass, forbs and/or legumes planted as a mixture of a minimum of 4 short native grass species and 6 native forb species. Refer to Table B for a list of native short grass.
- » Plan seeding mixtures to contain 20 seeds/sq. ft. of native grass and 20 seeds/sq. ft. of native forbs when possible.
- » Maximum seeding rate for Canada wildrye is 2 lbs./acre.
- » Consider designing the seeding mixture to meet Iowa pollinator habitat requirements when possible.
- » Consider including milkweed (*Asclepias* species) in the seeding to benefit Monarch butterflies.
- » Firebreak establishment is allowed in the nesting cover. Apply Conservation Practice Standard 394, Firebreak.
- » Refer to Conservation Practice Standard 327, Conservation Cover.

*Nesting habitat and shrubby winter covey headquarters / Photo courtesy of Iowa DNR*

Winter Covey Headquarters

- » Develop winter covey headquarters with shrub plantings and/or edge feathering of existing trees around the perimeter of CRP acres.
- » Maximize quail habitat by establishing covey headquarters for every 20-40 acres of nesting/early successional cover.
- » Consider adjacent habitat such as brushy fence rows and draws when planning winter habitat.
- » Establishing multiple shrub plots is beneficial. Individual shrub plots may not exceed 2 acres and all sources of winter habitat (shrub plots and edge feathering) may not exceed 20% of the contract acres.
- » Orient shrub planting in blocks or clumps (non-linear) at a minimum of 4 rows not to exceed 2 acres for each shrub planting location.
- » Plant native Iowa shrubs that provide high food value, refer to Table C.
- » When possible position shrub plantings next to a food source and in locations with a south facing aspect.
- » Refer to Iowa DNR “Edge Feathering” publication for guidance on edge feathering.
- » Refer to conservation practice standard Tree and Shrub Establishment (612) when developing shrub planting plans.

- » Mixtures of shrub species are desirable over monocultures.
- » Eastern red cedar is the only tree allowed.

Wildlife Food Plot (CP12)

- » Wildlife food plots are allowed on 10% of the CRP acres per field, not to exceed 5 acres.
- » Refer to the Iowa NRCS job sheet “Food Plots for Wildlife” for guidance.
- » Recommend plant species that provide winter grain.
- » When possible position food plots adjacent to winter covey headquarters.
- » Locate food plots on south facing slopes when possible.

Mid Contract Management (MCM)

- » Planting annuals on the Early Successional Habitat locations will meet MCM requirements on those acres in Years 4 and 7.
- » MCM on the nesting habitat acres will follow guidance for CP38E Early Successional Quail Habitat, per Iowa CRP Mid Contract Management Job Sheet.
- » Herbicide application is recommended to complete MCM requirements for areas of edge feathering.

Table C. Native Shrubs with High Wildlife Food Value

| Species |
|---|
| American hazelnut (<i>Corylus americana</i>) |
| American plum (<i>Prunus americana</i>) |
| Arrowwood (<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>) |
| Black raspberry (<i>Rubus occidentalis</i>) |
| Chokeberry (<i>Prunus virginiana</i>) |
| Elderberry (<i>Sambucus</i> spp.) |
| Gray dogwood (<i>Cornus racemosa</i>) |
| Redosier dogwood (<i>Cornus sericea</i>) |
| Serviceberry (<i>Amelanchier</i> spp.) |
| Wild grape (<i>Vitis riparia</i>) |
| False indigo bush (<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>) |
| Eastern red cedar (<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>) |



Edge feathering / Photo courtesy of Pheasants Forever



United States Department of Agriculture

Early Successional Quail Habitat Seeding Plan

Field Number: _____

SEE ATTACHED PHOTO FOR LOCATION(S)

| Annual grain/early successional species | Seeding rate/acre | Acres seeded | Total amount of seed needed |
|---|-------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| YEAR 1 | | | |
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| YEAR 4 | | | |
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| YEAR 7 | | | |
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| | | | |

Seedbed Preparation Method(s): _____

Planned Seeding Date(s): YEAR 1 _____ YEAR 4 _____

YEAR 7 _____

Additional Comments: _____

LANDOWNER SIGNATURE: _____

Date(s) Seeded: _____

CERTIFICATION DATE: _____

CP38E (CP4D Permanent Wildlife Habitat - noneasement) Early Successional Quail Habitat CRP Mid Contract Management

Name: _____

See attached aerial photo for areas to be treated.

Field(s): _____

Tract: _____

CP38E (CP4D, Permanent Wildlife Habitat-noneasement) –

For 10-year contracts MCM will be applied to the nesting habitat acres in years 4, 5, and 6 of the contract. Planting annuals on the Early Successional Habitat locations will meet MCM requirements on those acres in Years 4 and 7. Apply to the vegetative cover but not to areas planted to trees or shrubs unless required by District Forester or NRCS. Herbicide application is recommended to complete MCM requirements for areas of edge feathering.

| | MCM Options | Field # | Acres |
|--|-------------------|---------|-------|
| | Disk | | |
| | Disk & Interseed | | |
| | Spray | | |
| | Spray & Interseed | | |
| | Burn | | |
| | Burn & Interseed | | |
| | Interseed Only* | | |

* See following special interseeding information.

- According to NRCS FOTG (327) Conservation Cover standard, interseeding requires that existing vegetation be weakened prior to interseeding. For CRP, the stand may be weakened by disking, prescribed fire or chemical application prior to the interseeding operation.
 - IF the stand was hayed or grazed, these activities also meet the criteria of weakening the stand prior to interseeding.
- Time periods for CRP interseeding of introduced forbs and legumes: August 2 to September 30 or March 1 to May 14.
- Time periods for CRP interseeding of native forbs and legumes: April 15 to May 14.

Begin MCM in _____.



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